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RE: Amendment to Bill 5537

I am writing in support of adding the Naturopathic Scope Expansion language to bill #5537.

Having worked as an administrator in a Naturopathic Medical Practice, I have seen countless patients have their healthcare needs met through the expertise of these physicians. I know the holistic and methodical way in which they treat each individual and every malady. They are unique in their approach but are equal to their MD counterparts in education and training.

Naturopathic physicians complete four years of post-graduate medical training. They are licensed by the state of Connecticut and are covered by most insurance carriers in the state. They can order diagnostic testing and are qualified to act as primary care physicians. But they are limited by outdated laws.

Connecticut has one of only five accredited Naturopathic Medical Schools in the country, The University of Bridgeport, College of Naturopathic Medicine (UBCNM)! It is my hope that we will continue to be leaders in this field of specialized medicine and not allow ourselves to fall behind!

It is also important to offer graduates of this fine program the incentive to continue practicing in Connecticut by allowing them to use the full scope of their skills.

I have seen patients having to be referred elsewhere for simple prescriptions that NDs are fully capable of prescribing themselves, resulting in increased cost to the patient and certainly, inconvenience.

The proposed Scope Expansion is already legislated in 17 states. It is my understanding that in these states where NDs have the ability to prescribe prescription medications, their track record for safety is above average for physicians as a whole.

I have personally benefited greatly from the care of naturopathic physicians through my many years as a Milford resident. Please support this important legislation, allow these highly trained physicians to continue helping individuals and to do so more comprehensively.

I hope that you will give voice to my support at the hearing!

Sincerely,
Luisa Tanno